

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-18 and 23 were allowed, and claims 24-27 were rejected. All of the pending claims are believed to be allowable over the prior art references cited by the Examiner. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the arguments summarized below.

Double Patenting

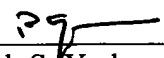
Claims 24-27 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-24 of U.S. Patent No. 7,017,245. Applicants hereby submit a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate this rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this Application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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